



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 16 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE FOR DISTRIBUTING ECSTASY AND FOR BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; GARY OLENKIEWICZ, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration; DUANE E. WIRTH, Boone County Sheriff; JAN W. NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief; and WILLIAM FEITHEN, DeKalb Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

Today, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **VERNON D. WOODS**, 33 Rockford, Illinois, to 16 years in prison, without parole, for distributing 3,4 methelenedioxymethamphetamine, commonly known as “ecstasy,” and for possessing a firearm as a convicted felon.

Woods pled guilty on June 25, 2007. In pleading guilty, Woods admitted that on October 27, 2006, he distributed 47 tablets of ecstasy to an individual, who unbeknownst to Woods, was an undercover law enforcement officer, in exchange for \$1,000. Woods also admitted that on November 15, 2007 he distributed an additional 100 tablets of ecstasy to the same undercover officer in exchange for \$1,000. Woods further admitted that on November 21, 2007 he possessed a Ruger SP101, .357 Magnum revolver, serial number 572-16616 (“Ruger handgun”) and five rounds of Remington .357 caliber ammunition (“Remington ammunition”) and that the firearm and ammunition had previously been transported in interstate commerce. Woods admitted that prior to November 21, 2007 that he had been convicted of multiple felony offenses.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration with the assistance of Boone County Sheriff’s Department, the Belvidere Police Department and the DeKalb Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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